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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/25/88
TAGS: ASEC, HOPS, PINS, PINT, PINR, SOPN, HILI, US, AF

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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT, OCTOBER 19-25, 1982

REF: KABUL 1689 Not relevant

1. (C.-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEF-
ING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY. THERE WAS AN UPSURGE OF RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND KABUL LAST WEEK COMPARED TO THE LOW LEVEL OF INCIDENTS EARLIER IN THE MONTH. THE MOST DRAMATIC INCIDENT OF THE WEEK WAS THE EXPLOSION EARLY IN THE MORNING OCTOBER 24 IN THE PANIR BUILDING IN COMMERCIAL SECTION OF KABUL. THE EXPLOSION DAMAGED THE MERCHANDISE IN THE LOWER FLOORS WHICH HOUSE RETAIL OUTLETS OF THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION, A CINEMA, AND, PERHAPS, A COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICE. THERE WAS A RESURGENCE OF FIGHTING IN THE KHAIR KHANA, KOTE SANGI AND DARULAMAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE CAPITAL AND IN THE NEARBY DASHT-E-BARCHI AND DEH SABZ AREAS TO THE WEST AND NORTHEAST REGIME TROOPS CONTINUED TO CONDUCT HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES, LARGELY CONCENTRATING LAST WEEK ON PARTS OF THE OLD CITY. THE SEARCHES FOR WEAPONS AND OTHER HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES MAY HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN REACTION TO A NEW ROUND OF NIGHT LETTERS WHICH FOREWARNED OF INCREASED RESISTANCE ACTIVITY ON OCTOBER 19.

4. THE TWO-WEEK OLD SOVIET/REGIME OFFENSIVES IN PAGHMAN TO THE NORTHEAST OF THE CITY AND IN THE SHOMALI REGION TO THE NORTH APPEAR TO BE OVER. REGIME TROOPS SENT TO PAGHMAN IN EARLY OCTOBER WERE WITHDRAWN ON OCTOBER 18 AND BOMBING OF NEARBY VILLAGES CEASED SEVERAL DAYS LATER. REGIME PRESENCE IN THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN IS
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CONCENTRATED IN THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. ADDITIONAL MILITARY OUTPOSTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA AND ON THE SOUTHERNMOST OF THE TWO ROADS LEADING FROM KABUL TO PAGHMAN. THE REGIME MAY HOPE THAT THE SAVAGE BOMBING OF PAGHMAN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES WILL DETER CIVILIAN SUPPORT FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN; HOWEVER, BY ALL ACCOUNTS THE LOCAL MUJAHIDEEN ARE BETTER ARMED THAN THEY WERE IN THE SUMMER AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THINGS AS DIFFICULT AS THEY CAN FOR THE OCCUPYING FORCES AT LEAST UNTIL THE ONSET OF WINTER.

5. ACCORDING TO FRAGMENTARY REPORTS, CIVILIANS ARE BEGINNING

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TO RETURN TO THE PANJSHER VALLEY WHERE LIVING CONDITIONS ARE EXTREMELY HARD AND FOOD SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE. REGIME GARRISONS AT ANAWA AND ROKHA CONTINUE UNDER ATTACK BY LOCAL RESISTANCE FORCES.

6. DADRAK KARHAL'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO HERAT OCTOBER 21 WAS CONDUCTED UNDER EXTREME SECURITY. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, THERE WERE NO MAJOR INCIDENTS DURING HIS VISIT, THOUGH THE HOTEL WHERE HE STAYED MAY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED JUST AFTER HIS DEPARTURE.
END SUMMARY.

7. KABUL ATMOSPHERICS.

THERE WAS AN UPSURGE OF RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND KABUL LAST WEEK COMPARED TO EARLIER IN OCTOBER. IN ADDITION THE BOMBING OF THE PAHIR BUILDING DESCRIBED BELOW, THERE WAS FIGHTING BETWEEN MUJAHIDEEN AND REGIME/SOVIET IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CAPITAL, AS WELL AS REPORTS OF A LETHAL EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE BETWEEN KHALQIS AND PARCHAMIST, DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION (DOR) FORCES IN THE KHAIR KHANA NEIGHBORHOOD ON OCTOBER 17. THE SOUND OF FIREFIGHTS ON SEVERAL NIGHTS WAS HEARD IN KHAIR KHANA, KOTE SANGI, AND THE DARULAMAN AREAS. A JEEP WAS ATTACKED ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 20/21 NEAR KOTE SANGI ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE CITY AND FOUR REGIME SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. THERE IS ALSO A REPORT THAT AN AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICER, HIS WIFE AND SMALL CHILD FLAGGED DOWN A TAXI NEAR KOTE SANGI EARLY IN THE WEEK, BUT INSTEAD OF BEING TAKEN TO SHAR-E-NAU, WERE INSTEAD DRIVEN TO PAGHMAN
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BY THE MUJAHID DRIVER.

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B. NEARBY BUT OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL THERE WERE HEAVY EXCHANGES
O FIRE IN THE DEH SABZ AREA BEYOND THE AIRPORT, AND IN THE DASHY-

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E-BARCHI DISTRICT TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. A JEEP WAS ATTACKED ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 21/22 IN DASHT-E-BARCHI, AND ITS THREE PASSENGERS WERE KILLED. ON THE SAME NIGHT THE MUJAXIDEEN ATTACKED A POST AT UTKHEL IN THE DEM-SABZ AREA KILLING SIX GOR PERSONNEL. THERE ARE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT THE AIRPORT WAS ATTACKED AT LEAST ONCE IN MID-OCTOBER AND THAT THE ARIANA CARGO OFFICE, WHICH IS IN A SEPARATE BUILDING NORTHEAST OF THE TERMINAL, WAS ROCKETED. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO SERIOUS DAMAGE VISIBLE ON ANY OF THE AIRPORT STRUCTURES.

9. SECURITY. HOUSEHOUSE SEARCHES OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF KABUL CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, AND ADDITIONAL AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES WERE SEEN IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY. ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY PARTS OF THE OLD CITY WERE CORDONED OFF AND SEARCHED INCLUDING THE CHINDAWAL AREA NEAR JADEH-YE-MIWAND WHICH IS LARGELY INHABITED BY HAZARAS AND QIZILBASH. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THE SEARCHES HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY NIGHT LETTERS (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN) STATING THAT THERE WOULD BE MAJOR RESISTANCE ATTACKS WITHIN THE CAPITAL ON OCTOBER 19.

10. BOMBING OF THE PAMIR BUILDING.
THE MOST SPECTACULAR RESISTANCE ACTION OF THE WEEK IN KABUL WAS THE BOMBING OF THE PAMIR BUILDING AT 0635 ON OCTOBER 24. THE BUILDING, WHICH IS THE TALLEST STRUCTURE IN KABUL AND IS USUALLY REFERRED TO AS "THE FOURTEEN STORY BUILDING," IS LOCATED AT ONE END OF THE MAIN COMMERCIAL THOROUGHFARE, JADEH-YE-MAIWAND, ON ON ITS LOWER FLOORS THE BUILDING HOUSES THE PAMIR CINEMA, THE RETAIL OUTLETS OF THE AFGHAN STATE TRADING CORPORATION (KART), AND, ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, A PARTY OFFICE. THE BOMB, APPARENTLY PLACED IN THE SHOPPING ARCADE, OR MEZZANINE, BLEW OUT MOST OF THE WINDOWS ON THE FIRST THREE FLOORS OF THE BUILDING.
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DAMAGED THE CINEMA SLIGHTLY, AND CAUSED MORE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE STORES AND GOODS OF THE TRADING CORPORATION WHICH INCLUDE REFRIGERATORS, TELEVISIONS, RADIOS AND SO ON. THERE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NO CASUALTIES AS THE BOMB WAS DETONATED BEFORE SHOP-KEEPERS ORDINARILY ARRIVE. THERE IS ALSO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF RESISTANCE ATTACK ON REGIME SOLDIERS IN THE NEARBY CHANDAWAL AREA FOUR DAYS EARLIER.

11. DARULAMAN. THE AREA SURROUNDING THE DARULAMAN PALACE -- WHICH WAS THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE BEFORE THE COMMUNIST COUP D'ETAT AND IS NOW USED BY SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS -- HAS BEEN

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A CONSTANT SECURITY PROBLEM FOR THE REGIME, AND IN RECENT MONTHS BOTH OTHER MILITARY OUTPOSTS IN THE AREA HAVE REGULARLY BEEN ATTACKED SEVERAL TIMES EACH WEEK. A NEW MILITARY OUTPOST WAS ESTABLISHED TO THE NORTHWEST OF DARULAMAN ABOUT FIVE WEEKS AGO, PROTECTED BY TEN ARMORED VEHICLES, TO CUT THE NORMAL ROUTE OF MUJAHIDEEN TRAVELLING TO ATTACK THE PALACE. FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS THE NEW POST WAS EFFECTIVE AS MUJAHIDEEN WERE FORCED TO FIRE ON THE PALACE FROM A GREATER DISTANCE. DURING THE LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, RESISTANCE FIGHTERS HAVE ATTACKED DARULAMAN AND A NUMBER OF THE SURROUNDING OUTPOSTS ON FOUR NIGHTS, THOUGH NO DETAILS ARE YET AVAILABLE ON THE DAMAGE INFLICTED, IF ANY. THE MUJAHIDEEN ALSO MINE THE SECONDARY DIRT ROADS IN THE AREA AND APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DESTROYING OR DISABLING SEVERAL VEHICLES PER MONTH. THOUGH THE RESIDENTS OF AREAS NEAR DARULAMAN WITNESS NIGHTLY EXCHANGES OF FIRE, THIS HAS NOT KEPT SOVIET SOLDIERS FROM SELLING FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER MATERIEL TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS. SEVERAL EVENINGS A WEEK SOVIET SOLDIERS SELL FLOUR, VODKA, GASOLINE, DIESEL FUEL AND, OCCASIONALLY SHOES, IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN A KILOMETER OF THE PALACE.

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12. KARGHA GOLF COURSE.
THE GOLF COURSE BELOW KARGHA DAM HAS REMAINED OPEN SINCE FRIDAY.

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OCTOBER 15. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE REASONS FOR THE FOUR-DAY CLOSURE OF THE COURSE TO DIPLOMATS WAS THAT THE ROAD JUST ABOVE HOLE NINE WAS BEING USED BY FIVE SOVIET TANKS. THE TANKS REPORTEDLY WERE AIMED NOT TOWARD APGHMAN, BUT TOWARD A HILLTOP IN THE DIRECTION OF KABUL WHERE MUJAHIDEEN HAD PREVIOUSLY ATTEMPTED TO SABOTAGE REGIME RADIO ANTENNAE.

13. PAGHMAN. THE SOVIET/REGIME OFFENSIVE AGAINST PAGHMAN APPEARS TO BE OVER. THE LAST OF THE AFGHAN TROOPS WHICH HAD BEEN SENT INTO THE AREA AROUND OCTOBER 8 WERE WITHDRAWN ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 10. BOMBING AND ROCKETING OF NEARBY VILLAGES CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS, BUT THE AREA IS NOW QUIET AND RESIDENTS ARE FREE TO DIG HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND BODIES OUT OF THE RUBBLE OF THEIR HOMES. NO ESTIMATE OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IS YET AVAILABLE, BUT THEY APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN IN THE EARLY JULY CAMPAIGN, AS DOES DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES AND HERDS OF LIVESTOCK.

14. WHILE THE OCTOBER OFFENSIVE TOOK A HEAVY CIVILIAN TOLL, THE AREA HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED OF MUJAHIDEEN WHO REPORTEDLY TOOK RELATIVELY LIGHT CASUALTIES. ACCORDING TO ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT, RESISTANCE FORCES FROM OTHER REGIONS, INCLUDING THE PANJSHER VALLEY, ENTERED THE PAGHMAN AREA ABOUT THE TIME OF THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, THE MUJAHIDEEN SHOT DOWN FOUR HELICOPTERS AND CLAIM TO HAVE INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE SOVIET AND AFGHAN FORCES. PAGHMAN TOWN AND THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES ARE REPORTEDLY STREWN WITH THE WRECKAGE OF TANKS, TRUCKS AND APC'S DESTROYED BY MINES AND ROCKETS DURING THE TWO-WEEK CAMPAIGN.

15. IN PAGHMAN ITSELF, MAJOR REGIME PRESENCE IS CONCENTRATED
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AT THE MOLESWALI NEAR CHANDALBOI BAZAAR WHERE OVER ONE HUNDRED SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ARE LOCATED. AS THE RESISTANCE PRESENCE REMAINS STRONG, SOLDIERS ARE NOT ALLOWED OUT IN SMALL GROUPS, AND EVEN THOSE DETAILED TO BRING WATER ARE ARMED WITH KALASHNIKOV'S AND TRAVEL IN GROUPS OF SIX TO EIGHT. ADDITIONAL MILITARY POSTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA SURROUNDING PAGHMAN AND ON THE ROAD FROM KOTE SANGI TO THE TOWN. THE INCREASED PRESENCE OF REGIME TROOPS ON THAT ROAD DID NOT, HOWEVER, IMPEDE THE AMBUSH OF A VEHICLE CARRYING DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION PERSONNEL BEING TRANSPORTED TO PAGHMAN ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 25/26. SIX PARACHAMISTS WERE REPORTED KILLED IN THAT CLASH AND THE VEHICLE

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BURNED.

16. THE OPERATION JUST CONCLUDED IS THE SECOND IN THREE MONTHS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE REGIME'S PRESENCE IN PAGHMAN AND IN REDUCING THE REGION'S SIGNIFICANCE AS A RESISTANCE STRONGHOLD. FOR THE MOMENT IT APPEARS AS IT DID IN JULY, THAT THE REGIME HAS A SLIGHTLY HIGHER DEGREE OF CONTROL IN PAGHMAN, IF ONLY BECAUSE ITS OUTPOSTS IN THE TOWN AND ON THE ROAD LEADING TO IT FROM KADUL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN TO CIRCULATE WITH IMPUNITY. FURTHER THE REGIME MAY HOPE THAT THE SAVAGE BOMBING TO WHICH IT SUBJECTED THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS THROUGHOUT OCTOBER WILL DETER THE CIVILIAN POPULATION FROM ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE RESISTANCE. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THE RESISTANCE HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN REDUCING REGIME OUTPOSTS FOLLOWING THE JULY OFFENSIVE. INDEED, IT MAY HAVE BEEN THESE ATTACKS WHICH PROVOKED THE LATEST REGIME AND SOVIET ONSLAUGHT AGAINST THE TOWN'S CIVILIAN POPULATION. NOW, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE MUJAHIDEEN ARE BETTER ARMED THAN THEY WERE IN THE SUMMER, AND THEY MAY BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THINGS AS DIFFICULT AS THEY CAN FOR THE OCCUPYING FORCES AT LEAST UNTIL THE ONSET OF WINTER.

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WITH THE CAMPAIGN IN RAGHMAN. IN THE PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN FEW MAJOR REGIME-INITIATED MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. THE MOST SPECTACULAR RESISTANCE SUCCESS WAS NEAR THE VILLAGE OF KARIA-E-MIR 20 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CAPITAL WHEN, IN EARLY OCTOBER, SIX SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES WERE ATTACKED BY THE MUJAHIDEEN. ONE VEHICLE WAS BURNED OUT AND THE OTHERS SO BADLY DAMAGED THAT THEY WERE ABANDONED. ALSO, ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 16, A TANK BASED AT THE FORMER KING'S GARDEN IN KARIZ-E-MIR WAS BLOWN UP BY A LAND MINE PLANTED IN A ROAD NEARBY.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, HOWEVER, THE PACE OF THE WAR IN THE SHOMALI APPEARS TO HAVE SLACKENED, AND THE STALEMATE WHICH HAS PREVAILED THERE FOR MANY MONTHS IS NOT GREATLY CHANGED, AT LEAST IN MILITARY TERMS. REGIME AND SOVIET FORCES ARE STILL STRONGLY ENTRENCHED IN QALA'-E-MOURAD BEG 16 KILOMETERS NORTH OF KABUL AND CONDUCT PERIODIC LONG-RANGE BOMBARDMENTS OF SUSPECTED RESISTANCE STRONGHOLDS. TANKS STATIONED FARTHER UP THE HIGHWAY NEAR HUSSAIN KOT ARE ALSO USED FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. THIS TACTIC HAS COST NUMEROUS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BUT HAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED THE VARIOUS RESISTANCE GROUPS OPERATING IN THE REGION. THESE UNITS ARE STRONG IN NUMBERS AND WEAPONS THANKS TO REGULAR RESUPPLY FROM PAKISTAN. ALSO, DESPITE PERIODIC CLOSING OF SECONDARY ROADS LEADING FROM VARIOUS VALLEYS IN THE SHOMALI TO THE MAIN HIGHWAY, THE REGION'S HARVEST OF GRAPES HAS BEEN ABUNDANT, AND SHIPMENTS OF RAISINS ARE REACHING KABUL REGULARLY.

19. PANJSHER VALLEY. ACCORDING TO A PANJSHERI SOURCE (PROTECT), CIVILIANS ARE BEGINNING TO RETURN TO THE BATTERED TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE PARTS OF THE VALLEY WHICH HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO RESISTANCE CONTROL, TOWNS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION ARE ASTANA, KHENJ, AND PARIAN, AND EVEN BAZARAK
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WHICH HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL. LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE TOWNS ARE EXTREMELY HARD BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE DONE BY AERIAL BOMBARDMENT AND BECAUSE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO HARVEST CROPS IN MUCH OF THE AREA. FOOD SUPPLIES ARE SAID TO BE COMING IN FROM OUTSIDE THE VALLEY, AND THE PRICE OF STAPLES SUCH AS FLOUR IS THEREFORE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN IT IS IN KABUL. ACCESS TO THE VALLEY CONTINUES THROUGH THE ANDARAB VALLEY TO THE NORTH AND VIA TAGAB AND NEJRAB TO THE SOUTH, AND THERE IS SAID TO BE A THIRD ROUTE WHICH FOLLOWS A PASS MUCH CLOSER TO GULBAHAR. A SECOND SOURCE VISITED GULBAHAR RECENTLY REPORTS THAT A HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE THERE HAS PER-

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HITTED THE AFGHAN TEXTILE COMPANY'S MILL TO RESUME LIMITED OPERATIONS, BUT GUNFIRE IN AND AROUND THE TOWN IS A REGULAR OCCURENCE. THE REGIME PRESENCE IN THE VALLEY, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, CONSISTS OF A SERIOES OF OUTPOSTS SUPPORTING THE BASES AT ANAWA AND ROKHA, WHICH, ACCORDING A SEPARATE SOURCE, ARE VIRTUALLY UNDER SIEGE.

20. BADRAK VISITS HERAT.

BABRAK KARNAL PAID A ONE-DAY VISIT TO HERAT ON OCTOBER 21 WHICH IS BEING PLAYED UP BY THE REGIME MEDIA AS PROOF OF IMPROVED SECURITY CONDITIONS. AS WITH HIS EARLIER VISIT TO HAZAR-E-SHARIF, HIS MOVEHENTS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES WERE COVERED BY EXTREMELY HEAVY SECURITY. WHILE WE KNOW OF NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS, THE HOTEL IN WHICH HE STAYED MAY HAVE BEEN ROCKETED JUST AFTER HIS DEPARTURE.
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